

APPROVED 6/24/2025
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025
In Person & By Zoom, 7:00PM-8:55PM

Attendance

- *Vestry Members Present:* Michele Morgan (Rector), Jim Brooks (Senior Warden), Martha Huizenga (Junior Warden), Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, Katherine White, Ben Flowers, Elizabeth Becker, Todd Thorpe, Travis Beaty, Mary Ellison
- *Vestry Member Absent:* Meg Platt
- *Officers:* Randy Marks (Clerk), Ryan Baugh (Assistant Clerk), Doug Ammon (Treasurer), Frank Nickerson (Assistant Treasurer, Bequests), Rosemary Harold (Counsel)
- *Clergy:* Caitlin Frazier (Assistant Rector)
- *Staff:* Caleb Nelson Amaker (Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries)
- *Guest:* Jeb Ory

Actions

- [April 29, 2025 Minutes](#) approved unanimously.
-  Babysitting Fundraiser request approved unanimously.

Reports

Rector

- Michele Morgan noted several projects she is working on: Pentecost worship planning, money counting, and discussions with Virginia Theological Seminary about seminarian candidates.
- She will be away Friday and Saturday for Lydia Arnts's ordination.

- She noted that a new church, the Christ Kirk Church, is now in the area.
- There was discussion about the promises and potential costs of posting the calendar on the website.

Senior Warden.

- Jim Brooks discussed a  Rough Draft Capitol Budget 2025-26 that the Finance Committee reviewed last week. It lists the costs of major projects and the sources of money to do them.
- He reported that the FEMA grant for repairing the doors is undergoing DC government review.

Junior Warden

- Martha Huizenga submitted her [Report](#) prior to the meeting.
- Martha discussed the status of several of the projects in the Capital Budget.

Treasurer

- Doug Ammon submitted his [Report](#) in advance of the meeting.
- He reported that we have yet to see any significant decline in pledge revenue, despite the financial stresses that our members are experiencing.
- He discussed various moves of our cash from the checking account to higher interest Vanguard accounts.

Discussions

Children, Youth, & Families Ministries

- Jeb Ory and Caleb Nelson Amaker presented a new [Children, Youth, & Families Ministries structure](#). They noted the leadership of Denise Oliveira.
- The consensus was that the mission statement and structure were fantastic.

- The June 1 Rector's Forum will present the changes to the Parish.

By-Laws Amendments

- Randy Marks again presented [possible updates to Parish By-Laws](#), mostly related to the nominations and the annual meeting.
- The consensus was to move ahead with the changes relating to the annual meeting minutes approval process and to change lay Diocesan delegate eligibility from confirmed communicant to communicant in good standing (to be consistent with Diocesan Canons).
- The Vestry will act formally to approve their submission to the membership and discuss possibly expanding the size of the Vestry at a future meeting.

Holy Week

- Jim initiated a discussion of Holy Week.
- The consensus was that it worked well.
- The Vestry identified ways of improving Maundy Thursday: be clearer on the opportunity for foot washing; lay participation in planning for the reception; and address dietary restrictions (allergies, vegetarian) for the potluck.
- We could also publicize the value of the Tenebrae service more effectively.

Respectfully submitted

Randy Marks, Vestry Clerk

Ryan Baugh, Assistant Vestry Clerk